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NEW YORK CITY: THE BEST OF 2011

32 reasons why we wouldn't want to live anywhere else {pages 12-16}

WHY IS ODD FUTURE SO IMPORTANT TO HIP-HOP'S FUTURE?
TELEVISION {page 20}

MICHAEL FASSBENDER HAS NO 'SHAME'
MOVIES {page 24}

THESE KARDASHIANS NEED TO JUST STOP MAKING US SO CRAZY
THE WORD {page 22}

THE NORTH FACE

A. Windwall 1 jacket. Polyester fleece. Men's S-XXL. $99. ★ WebID 587121.
B. Atlas Triclimate 3-in-1 jacket. Nylon HyVent shell with removable polyester fleece lining. Men's S-XXL. $230.

THE NORTH FACE

C. Apex soft shell gloves. S-XL. $40.
D. Manaslu gloves. S-XL. $30.
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F. Denali hoodie. Polyester fleece with nylon. Men's S-XXL. $179. ★ WebID 575589.

THE NORTH FACE

G. Logo beanie. Merino wool. $25.
H. Reversible banner beanie. $20.
J. Bones beanie. $20.
K. Denali jacket. Polyester fleece with nylon. Men's S-XXL. $165. ★ WebID 575587.

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L. Nuptse 2 jacket. Mini ripstop nylon shell with goose down fill. Men's S-XXL. $199.
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M

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In the news

Nanny arrested in kidnapping

Police arrested a babysitter after she disappeared with a child in her care Wednesday. Cops said Beatrice Rios, 46, disappeared for hours with Annabelle Ceria, 17 months, creating fear that the baby had been kidnapped. Rios told police she was lost on the subway. METRO/AB

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Charges in murder of student

EAST HARLEM. The man who police say slashed a Hunter College student last week was her former flame. Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said Bakary Canara, 41, was charged with the murder of Rita Morelli, 36, a student originally from Italy who was found dead in her East Harlem apartment on Nov. 23. Kelly said the two had a previous romantic relationship, and had kept in contact with each other. When police came to arrest him on Wednesday, Canara stabbed himself in the chest, but survived the injury, said police. METRO/AB

EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN/METRO

▶ Strauss-Kahn leaves court earlier this year.

DSK: Sex with maid was 'stupid'

PARIS. According to a new book that hit stores Thursday, "Affaires DSK: The Second Inquiry," Dominique Strauss-Kahn said he had consensual sex with a maid but called it "stupid." The maid maintains her claim that Strauss-Kahn raped her in the Sofitel hotel room on May 14. But Strauss-Kahn said the maid gave him a "suggestive look" as he emerged naked from the shower. METRO/CB

Dentist to sue for bad review

MIDTOWN. A dentist is threatening to sue a patient for a bad Yelp review. Dr. Stacy Makhnevich made her clients sign legal papers requiring them not to write anything bad about their visit, but one patient critiqued her on Yelp and DoctorBase. METRO/AB

Music. Occupy Wall Street

▶ Third Eye Blind lead singer Stephan Jenkins performs atop a bench in Zuccotti Park Thursday.

EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN/METRO

Life not so charmed?

Folk legend Jackson Browne performed along with the band Dawes and Third Eye Blind as part of Occupy Wall Street Thursday. "Something is quite imperfect. It's quite unfair," Third Eye Blind lead singer Stephan Jenkins told the crowd. "I see Occupy as this organic uprising to correct this imbalance." METRO/EAE

Cops arrest ring of luxury car thieves

Crime ring fraudulently bought cars, then sold them on the black market, say police Maseratis, BMWs, Porsches rented out for thousands

In an alleged scam fit for the plot of a mob movie, 18 New Yorkers are charged with fraudulently buying luxury cars like BMWs and Maseratis and then selling them on the black market — and one of the swanky cars even ended up with a dead body in the trunk.

The members of the alleged crime ring duped their acquaintances into buying the cars under their names, Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said Thursday.

It was "a scene reminiscent of 'Goodfellas.'"
NYPD COMMISSIONER RAY KELLY

Under the scam, the ring bought about 50 vehicles between 2008 and 2010, worth a total of $2 million, Kelly said.

Then, Kelly said, they stopped making payments to the Queens and Brooklyn dealerships from which the cars were purchased. Instead, they turned around and sold or rented the cars for cash.

People paid as much as $2,000 to rent the cars for drives around the city, cops said, taking their pick from a fleet of black-market Maseratis, BMWs, Porsches and Cadillac Escalades.

As for those who bought the cars, five were charged who knew the extent of the fraud, Kelly said. Others, who he said were not charged, "were duped" into taking out pricey loans for the cars. They were told their car loans would be paid off in full, leaving them with boosted credit.

The suspects face up to 25 years in prison.

ALISON BOWEN
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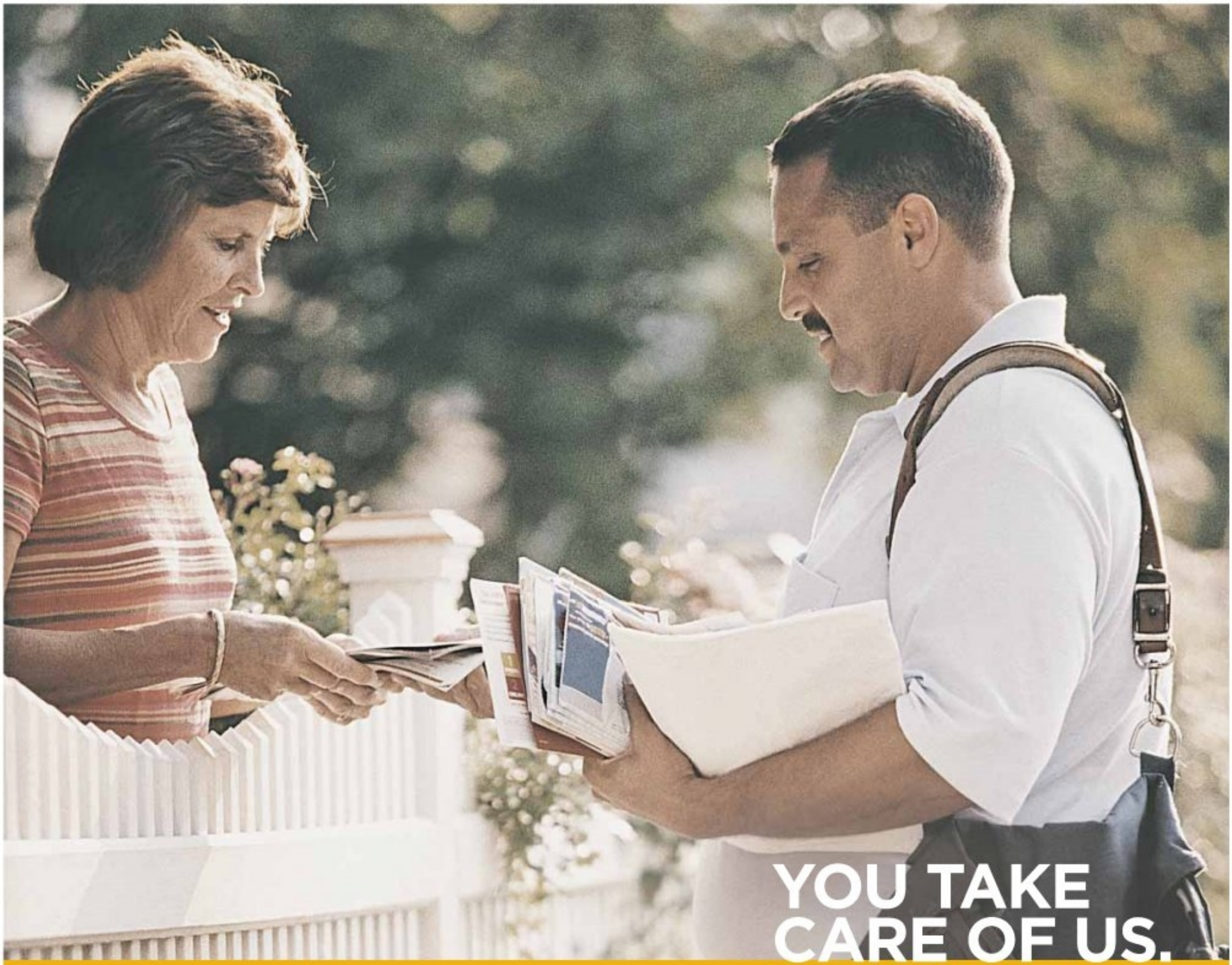
▶ A Porsche Cayenne

Mob-style killing?

NEW YORK. One of the cars, a 2008 Porsche Cayenne, was used in an alleged murder. Two men were killed and one of the bodies stuffed in the back of the car, said Kelly. "In a scene reminiscent of 'Goodfellas,' the victim was still alive when they popped open the hatch of the Porsche. He was shot again and finally killed," said Kelly. METRO/AB

$2M

Cops said the ring racked up $2 million in illegal money, including fraudulent loans.



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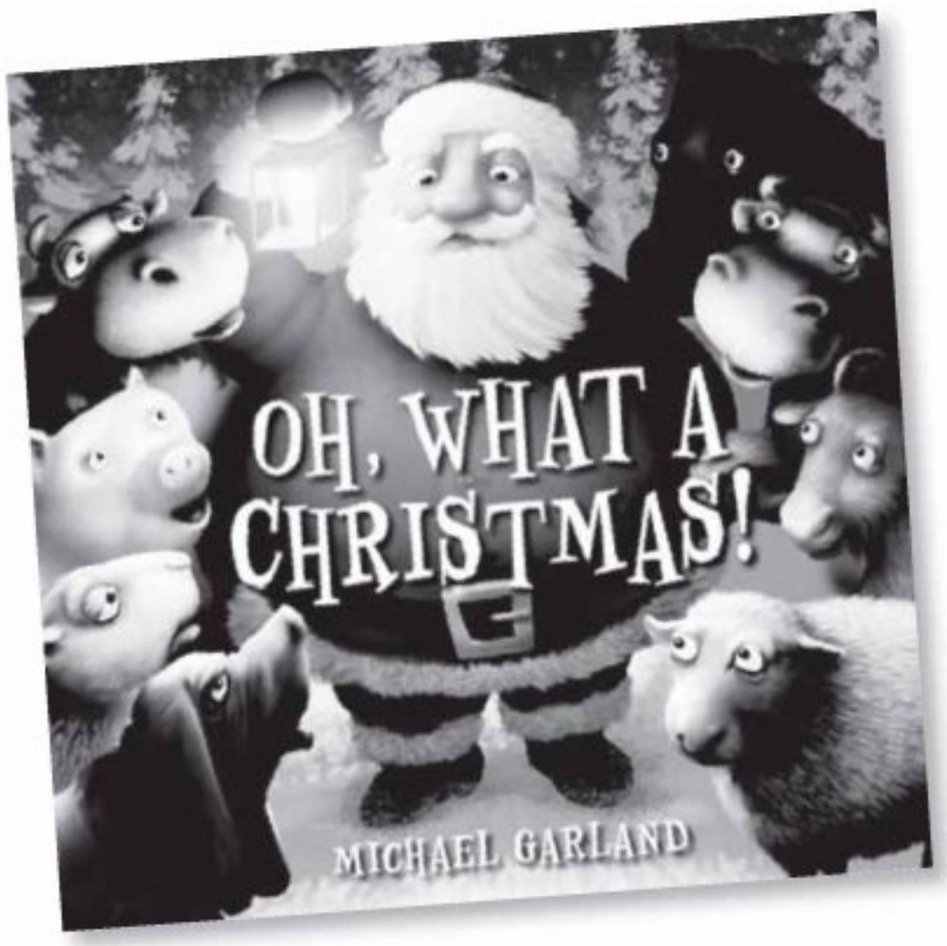

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BLOG

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SCHOLASTIC

ISTOCKPHOTO

▶ Police say a 20-year-old Washington Heights woman self-aborted her unborn baby.

Women's group outraged over self-abortion arrest

The director of a prominent national women's rights group is outraged that the NYPD brought charges of first-degree self-abortion against a 20-year-old Washington Heights woman Wednesday.

Police say the woman's fetus, about 24 weeks along, was found inside a trash can in an alley behind her apartment building in Washington Heights on Tuesday. The grisly discovery was made by the superintendent of the woman's building, at 191st Street near Wadsworth Avenue, while he was looking for recyclables.

1 year

First-degree self-abortion is a class-A misdemeanor that carries a maximum sentence of one year in prison upon conviction.

New York law states that a fetus must be at least 24 weeks along for a woman to be charged with self-abortion.

"It's absolutely outlandish to charge her with self-abortion," said Sonia Ossoria, director of the National Organization for Women in New York. "Everyone would be better served if the D.A.'s office dropped this and instead tried to find some services to help her heal."

According to DNAinfo, sources said the woman, who has a 3-year-old daughter, told police she drank herbal tea and then delivered a stillborn baby.

"These are really scary times for pregnant women; this is dangerous territory for law enforcement," said Ossoria.

CASSANDRA GARRISON
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Pro-choice group: It's a 'tragedy'

NEW YORK. Andrea Miller, president of NARAL Pro-Choice New York, called the accused woman's situation "desperate."

"While we can't know the full circumstances of this case, we're troubled and saddened by what appears to be a desperate situation in which a woman felt she had nowhere to turn," Miller told Metro Thursday.

"Tragedies like this underscore the importance of making sure every woman has timely access to the full range of reproductive health services to prevent an unintended pregnancy," she added. "And to seek safe, appropriate care if she does become pregnant." METRO/CG

New fuel for debate

NEW YORK. "The idea that any woman would perform her own abortion and then discard her baby in a Dumpster is enough to make most people sick," said Bill Donohue, president of the Catholic League and an outspoken abortion opponent. "But what is much sicker is the lack of outrage over well-paid doctors who perform the exact same procedure." METRO/CG

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Manhattan buses chug the slowest

Manhattan routes are slowest and least reliable in entire city, report finds Does your bus make the list?

▶ Riders board the M50 bus, which, at 3.5 mph, moves slower than a lawnmower.

New Yorkers are better off riding a lawnmower to work than the crosstown M50 bus, according to a study of local bus routes released Thursday by two of the city's most prominent transit advocacy groups.

The New York City Straphangers Campaign and Transportation Alternatives teamed up to hand out two awards for the city's worst bus service: the "Pokey" and the "Schleppie."

The M50 crawls across 50th Street at a dismal speed of 3.5 mph, earning it the "Pokey" award for the slowest local bus route.

"You can push a lawnmower faster crosstown than it takes the M50 to go from First to 12th Avenue," said Gene Russianoff, attorney for the Straphangers Campaign.

"This year's Pokey goes to yet another sad example of our underfunded transit system," said Paul Steely White, director of Transportation Alternatives.

The "Schleppie" award was given out to the least reliable bus line on Thursday. That dubious honor was bestowed on the M101/102/103 route, which runs up and down Third Avenue.

Is this your ride?

Slowest bus routes in each borough:

- **M50:** 3.5 mph
- **Bx19:** 5.0 mph
- **B4:** 6.5 mph
- **Q58:** 7.2 mph
- **S48:** 8.8 mph

EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN
emily.epstein@metro.us

▶ Some of the toys already purchased by our readers.

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US working to restore Myanmar diplomacy

- Clinton's visit to authoritarian nation our first in nearly two decades
- Secretary of state says dealings with nuclear North Korea must end first

Concerns

Rights groups and some lawmakers in Congress are concerned that Washington may be moving too swiftly to endorse the new leadership. Clinton made clear the United States needed to see more progress.

- "It is encouraging that political prisoners have been released, but over 1,000 are still not free," Clinton said.
- **Clinton also said it would "be difficult to begin a new chapter" until Myanmar began making peace with ethnic rebels.**

The United States will support more aid for Myanmar and consider installing an ambassador after an absence of some two decades, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said on Thursday, offering the first rewards for reform.

Clinton said she had "candid, productive" conversations with President Thein Sein and other Myanmar ministers and told them Washington stood ready to support further reforms and possibly lift sanctions.

But she also urged Myanmar, which is seeking to emerge from decades of authoritarian military rule, to take further steps to release political prisoners and end ethnic conflicts.

Quoted

"No person in any country should be detained for exercising universal freedoms of expression, assembly and conscience."

CLINTON

Better ties, Clinton said, are impossible unless Myanmar halts its dealings with North Korea, which has set alarm bells ringing across Asia with its renegade nuclear program.

Clinton's landmark visit to the country also known as Burma marks a tentative rapprochement after more than 50 years of estrangement from the West.

She later traveled to the commercial capital of Yangon where she went barefoot as part of Buddhist tradition at a revered shrine, the Shwedagon Pagoda. She then held the first of two meetings with pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi. **REUTERS**

SAUL LOEB/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Secretary of State Hillary Clinton tours the Shwedegon Pagoda, a Buddhist temple in Rangoon, Myanmar.

YOUR SEAT ON THE PRESIDENT'S PLANE

Opinion

TOM FOREMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN

If you buy an airline ticket this holiday season, you might want to reflect on the past year in politics, on how your pals in D.C. daily strive to represent your interests, and on how both parties love nothing more than pulling out your credit card to treat themselves to some nice gifts.

The latest case in point: The kerfuffle over President Obama's use of taxpayer dollars to pay for what are, at least in part, campaign trips to battleground states.

Let me say up front, that this is not a unique issue for this White House. All modern presidents, Democratic and Republican, have used the power of their position to quietly force voters to underwrite their re-election campaigns in this fashion. Press Secretary Jay Carney is dead right when he says, "We do this absolutely by the book."

What he neglects to mention is that this "book" was cooked long ago.

It works like this: Each party, when it does not hold the White House, howls about the incumbent using taxpayer funds for campaign trips. Then when that party takes the Oval Office, the operatives fire up Air Force One and say, "Hey, the other guys did it when they were here!" In this fashion, the parties make sure that neither of them will ever have to pay more than a ceremonial pittance for all that travel, all that security, all that is involved in getting their guy to those $20,000-a-plate dinners.

"Being President is a 24-hour job!" White Housers almost always say. True. It's not like the president can hop into a Camry and ride across Ohio slapping up yard signs. But when the federal budget is a mess, and taxpayers are gasping for economic survival, it seems a tad insensitive for an incumbent who is raking in millions and millions in donations to be sliding the bill across the table to us.

In addition, critics ask, if he's always on the clock, what business does any president have spending any of his time at private fundraisers, let alone going to dozens of them?

Again, President Obama deserves no more blame for this than any other president, but the evidence suggests he does not deserve a pass either. And when your campaign is based on bringing "change" to Washington, it seems a weak defense to point at the past and say it's always been this way.

*– CNN's **Tom Foreman** is a regular on "AC360°"/www.ac360.com and "The Situation Room."*

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WEEKEND

NEW YORK CITY: BEST OF 2011

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We break into a happy dance when someone spots the Rickshaw Dumpling Truck parked outside of our office. Some may simply call them dumplings; we call Rickshaw's specialty item little pockets of heaven. The dumplings are perfectly steamed and thoughtfully created using antibiotic-free Bell and Evans chicken and organic edamame. Weighing in at less than 300 calories per six-pack, you don't even have to do the why-did-I-indulge-treadmill-jog-of-shame afterwards.

BEST RESTAURANT THAT'LL REMIND YOUR GIRLFRIEND WHY SHE FELL FOR YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE

La Lanterna Caffe
129 MacDougal St.
212-529-5945
www.lalanternacaffe.com
Head over here for Italian comfort fare like Lasagna Bolognese and Pizza Ai Quattro Formaggi over candlelight. Ask to be seated in the basement, where the fireplace and low ceilings set a romantic scene.

BEST BROOKLYN BAR TO TAKE YOUR DOG

Washington Commons
748 Washington Ave., Brooklyn
718-230-3666
This laid-back Prospect Heights bar has a huge outdoor area with large picnic tables that are perfect for sharing with nice neighborhood locals (some of the four-legged variety). The ever-changing beer list keeps things interesting, while the excellent happy hour keeps it affordable.

BEST ALL-OUT, WHO-CARES-IF-IT'S-A-MILLION-CALORIES FOOD INDULGENCE

Banana pudding at Magnolia Bakery
Various locations
www.magnoliacupcakes.com
We're sure your mom makes a mean version of this homey, cozy dessert, but Magnolia's would likely give it a run for its money. Globs of crumbly crust mingle with whole chunks of banana in a sweet, thick goop that'll make you rethink ever ordering a cupcake at the shop.

BEST NOODLES OUTSIDE OF CHINATOWN

Xi'an Famous Foods
81 St. Marks Place
212-786-2068
www.xianfoods.com
The line at this tiny Taiwanese East Village establishment is usually out the door, and for good reason: Its homemade noodles are out of this world. The spicy cumin lamb noodles, spicy tingly beef noodles and barbecue pork sliders are especially recommended.

BEST INDIAN FUSION LUNCHTIME TAKEOUT

Hot Clay Oven
101 Maiden Lane
212-269-2103
www.hotclayoven.com
There are more than a few Indian fusion restaurants that are claiming to be "The Indian Chipotle," but it's fair to say that Hot Clay Oven is the one that really pulls it off. Choose your base of a wrap (naan or tortilla) or bowl (salad or rice) and top it off with malai or tandoori chicken, channa masala or pork vindaloo. Add veggies and cheese and pile on delicious chutneys and dressings. Everything about the food at Hot Clay Oven is irresistible.

BEST YET-TO-BE FAMOUS BUT STILL DELICIOUS CUPCAKE SHOP

Butter Lane
123 E. Seventh St.
212-677-2880
240 Seventh Ave., Brooklyn
718-369-0466
OK, OK — so the East Village location of Butter Lane might be considered "famous" (it is very popular) but the Park Slope location is still under the cake radar. Butter Lane is unique from other artisanal cupcake shops in that you can pick your cake (vanilla, chocolate or banana) and then choose what type of frosting (peanut butter, coconut, espresso, caramel, tiramisu, French chocolate and on and on) you want. The freedom to choose your cupcake! We can get behind that.

BEST BLOODY MARY THAT COULD ARGUABLY BE CONSIDERED A MEAL

Locanda Verde
377 Greenwich St.
212-925-3797
www.locandaverdenyc.com
With a generous chunk of ham and a delicious green olive garnish, Locanda Verde's Bloody Mary is a special wonder at this already fabulous Tribeca brunch spot partly owned by Robert DeNiro.

BEST SPOT TO FILL YOUR GROWLER AND PICK UP EGGS TO MAKE MORNING-AFTER OMELETTES

Whole Foods Market Bowery Beer Room
95 E. Houston St.
212-420-1320
www.wholefoodsmarket.com/stores/bowery
There are so many places in the city willing to fill glass jugs full of beer for you these days, you'd think it was the second coming of Prohibition. Of course, it's really just a sign of the momentum behind the craft beer movement. Our no-speakeasy-required pick for growler-filling hot spot is the Beer Room at Whole Foods Market Bowery for its Lower East Side convenience and low-key vibe — not that these beer folks are slouches. They'll school you on the latest brews from local breweries like Kelso and Pretty Things, minus the intimidating beer snobbery. And it's all found in the same place you're picking up your eggs and OJ.

ENTERTAINMENT & NIGHTLIFE

BEST PLACE TO WATCH A BLOCKBUSTER ON OPENING WEEKEND WITHOUT GETTING YOUR SEAT KICKED

Regal Battery Park Stadium 11
102 North End Ave.
212-945-4370
www.regmovies.com
We're honoring the Regal Battery Park Stadium 11 theater at our own risk — spreading the word might make it less of a cinematic safe-haven. Tucked out of the way in downtown Manhattan, this theater is a forgotten treasure that never seems to get overloaded, even on opening weekend.

BEST PLACE TO PICK UP A HOT ONE-NIGHT STAND

The Double Windsor
210 Prospect Park West, Brooklyn
347-725-3479
There is nothing low-rent about this Windsor Terrace bar. Its great beer selection and savory eats draw in the neighborhood's casual yet well-to-do young professionals — exactly what a person on the prowl would be looking for on a Saturday night.

BEST DINNER-AND-A-MOVIE-IN-ONE DATE SPOT

Nitehawk Cinema
136 Metropolitan Ave., Brooklyn
718-384-3980, www.nitehawkcinema.com
Ever the model of efficiency, New York has finally found a way to compress the "dinner and a movie" thing down to its leanest form. At the Nitehawk Cinema in Williamsburg, indie films are screened for diners who can imbibe wine, beer and cocktails while enjoying amazing specials like the Hawaiian pulled pork sandwich. For traditionalists, popcorn (with butter!) is also served.

BEST CLASSY BAR WITH TURNTABLES AND AMAZING PANINIS

Lowlands
543 Third Ave., Brooklyn
347-463-9458
www.lowlandsbar.com
This Gowanus outpost is a sight for sore eyes after hopping off the R train and wandering through Park Slope's nether regions. With a dark ambience that's aided by the crackling turntable and retro accents, Lowlands is the best low-key spot to have a drink and enjoy delicious paninis on fresh ciabatta bread.

SHOPPING

BEST BOOKSHOP TO BUY A BEST-SELLER AND PLANT A TREE THAT ONE DAY YOU CAN READ UNDER

Strand Book Store
828 Broadway
212-473-1452
www.strandbooks.com
Peruse the Strand's 18 miles of books for the latest smash or that rare, out-of-print book your grandmother keeps telling you about. Need some help deciding? Let your favorite authors — like Nora Ephron, Chuck Klosterman and, coming this January, Jonathan Franzen — choose for you: They've all curated collections of their favorite books for browsing. Oh, and the Strand has teamed up with Eco-Libris to make sure the circle of life continues: For every dollar you donate with your purchase, a tree will be planted in a developing country.

BEST NON-APPLE-AFFILIATED STORE WHERE YOU CAN STILL BUY MUSIC

Other Music
15 E. Fourth St.
212-477-8150
http://othermusic.com
Yeah, it's cooler-than-thou and very aware of its underground fame (even indie "it" girl Chloe Sevigny shops there). But Other Music still brings the goods when it comes to vinyl, a great used music selection and an eclectic variety of rarities that span the most underappreciated genres out there.

Read more on page 14

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BEST PET SHOP THAT DELIVERS FIDO'S FAVORITES

Acme Pet Food, Inc.
628 Vanderbilt Ave., Brooklyn
718-789-8062
Everyone knows the big dogs in Brooklyn (Petsmart, Petco) deliver, but so does the almost Hanna-Barbera-named Acme Pet Food, Inc., which serves up healthy selections and friendly service. And you'll be helping out a local business in the process. Now that is something to make you — and your pets — feel a little better.

BEST NEW SPOT TO GET A MANICURE AND PRESCRIPTION FILLED

Duane Reade at 40 Wall St.
40 Wall St.
212-742-8457
www.dr40wallstreet.com
Duane Reade has refurbished many of its locales to resemble suburban drug stores on steroids, but the new Wall St. location takes the prize for awesomeness. The vast space offers such non-drug store goodies as blowouts, sushi, manicures and a really lovely pharmacy counter with actual nice people working behind it.

BEST PLACE TO PICK UP KITCHEN SUPPLIES AND A SEXY KIMONO

Pearl River
477 Broadway
212-431-4770
www.pearlriver.com
It's the No. 1 spot for beautiful and affordable ceramics. More importantly, there are silk kimonos and Sriracha sauce. Pearl River packs fun luxuries and inexpensive necessities into its sprawling space.

BEST SHOP TO GET FITTED FOR ATHLETIC SHOES LIKE YOU'RE AN OLYMPIC ATHLETE

Jack Rabbit
151 Seventh Ave., Brooklyn
718-636-9000
Who really knows if it works or not (we're no scientists!) but it is very cool that at Jack Rabbit, they make a mini-film of you walking/light jogging on a treadmill to see how your foot strikes the pavement. They then show you shoes that help with your particular foot/gait.

BEST CANADIAN IMPORT WHERE $100 MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE A BALLER

Joe Fresh
110 Fifth Ave.
212-366-0960
www.joefresh.com
We're loving the recent Canadian fashion invasion. Only at Joe Fresh — an apparel chain created by Joseph Mimran, the founder of Club Monaco, that's sold in Canadian supermarkets (yes, supermarkets!) — can you score multiple high-quality stylish basics without contemplating slashing your credit cards afterwards. We scored a $60 cashmere sweater, $40 waffle weave slouchy cardi and some $4 polka dot socks. Welcome to the neighborhood, Joe.

SERVICES

BEST "NO-FRILLS" GYM THAT STILL MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE A MILLION BUCKS

Planet Fitness
Various locations
www.planetfitness.com
No classes? No problem. Go at your own pace at this clean gym, which has all the basics you need — treadmills, ellipticals, stationary bikes, weights and a 30-minute circuit zone. Whether you're training for a triathlon or just want to shed a few pounds, the "No Judgment Zone" motto ensures that all are welcome.

BEST USE OF TAXIDERMY IN A HAIR SALON

Blackstones
19 E. Seventh St.
212-353-2680
www.blackstonesnyc.net
The funky decor and many taxidermy animals on the wall can lend Blackstones a "hipper-than-thou" feel, but don't be afraid, mere mortal. The stylists at Blackstones — although, yes, hip and beautiful — really listen and examine what is going on with that fro of yours. That kind of collaborative experience is great when you want a good, new style without the fear that you'll leave with a pseudo-mohawk.

BEST SALON THAT WILL KEEP IT REAL ABOUT YOUR HAIR

Philip Kingsley Trichological Centre
16 E. 52nd St.
212-753-9600
www.philipkingsley.com
You hair is limp, you're worried it's falling out too much, it never looks right after you blow dry it anymore. Take all of your bad hair day concerns to the Philip Kingsley clinic, where a specialist in trichology (the study of human hair) will assess what's going on with your scalp and locks and create a hair care routine just for you.

BEST SPA TO HANG OUT IN ALL DAY (THAT WON'T KICK YOU OUT, EITHER)

The Peninsula Spa by ESPA
The Peninsula New York
700 Fifth Ave.
212-903-3910
www.peninsula.com
Need a vacation but can't spring for a trip? Pamper yourself with two hours of treatment time at the Peninsula Spa ($351). Besides a much needed deep tissue massage or microderm facial, the two services get you access to the five star-rated

Read more on page 16

The No. 1 choice for the magic of Christmas.
Fly nonstop to Germany and discover the romantic Christmas markets.
all-in from $679*
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SERVICES

spa's saunas, aromatherapy steam room, ice fountain, state of the art fitness center and pool. Take in a yoga class in their sun-lit studio, enjoy a complimentary lunch of poached halibut or an Asian vegetable salad on the terrace — featuring panoramic city views — or just lounge around the glass-enclosed swimming pool all day reading trashy mags. You'll be in paradise without leaving the island.

BEST MOVERS WHO ARE RELIABLE AND STILL LEAVE ENOUGH MONEY IN THE BUDGET FOR A NEW FUTON

A Moveable Feat
800-607-0689
www.amoveablefeat.com
Packing your entire life into boxes and paying a few dudes to haul them away is a stressful experience. But moving into your new pad doesn't have to be more anxiety-ridden than the search to find that perfect apartment was — or as expensive as the broker fee. A Moveable Feat is a company of true professionals who transport your belongings with care and efficiency. They're fast, friendly and incredibly well priced: the mover's trifecta. They'll move that heirloom bedroom set and all of your other precious/awkwardly shaped items up four narrow flights of stairs with a smile — no panic attack on your part necessary.

NEIGHBORHOODS & GETAWAYS

BEST ROOFTOP VIEW THAT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE A TOURIST IN YOUR OWN CITY

JIMMY at the James Hotel
15 Thompson St.
212-201-9118
www.jameshotels.com
Forgo the standard Midtown views and enjoy some new angles at the JIMMY, which offers unparalleled access to the downtown scene, from Wall Street to the Brooklyn Bridge. While you're there, enjoy cocktails and — when it's summer — take a dip in the rooftop pool.

BEST PLACE TO PEOPLE-WATCH WHILE HIDING BEHIND YOUR LAPTOP WRITING EMAILS

Bryant Park
42nd Street and Sixth Avenue
212-768-4242
www.bryantpark.org
We're not even going to get into the free yoga classes that are offered every summer — or the movie screenings, winter ice-skating and Fashion Weeks of yesteryear. Not only will you have no problem finding a place to sit, but with free Wi-Fi and 'Wichcraft populating this block, you'll also get to observe all sorts of New Yorkers enjoying their green space.

BEST KID-TARGETED ADVENTURE YOU'LL GET A KICK OUT OF TOO

Sony Wonder Technology Lab
550 Madison Ave. Annex, 212-833-8100
www.sonywondertechlab.com
The four-story museum boasts a number of cool, hands-on exhibits — and free admission! Visitors can learn the basics of TV production in the HD television studio (where they create their own news segment), animate themselves using motion capture technology, re-mix an Alicia Keys song in the music studio and perform virtual open-heart surgery. Kids will have too much fun to realize they're learning. Bonus: The lab hosts free movie screenings for all ages in its in-house theater.

BEST NEW DEVELOPMENT THAT FEELS LIKE THE HIPSTER VERSION OF MELROSE PLACE

The Residences at The Williamsburg
135 N. 11th St., Brooklyn
718-207-6202
www.135n11.com
If the PBR-laden streets of Williamsburg fit your hipster dreams, but you and your barista friends have been waiting for an upscale condo complex to call home, you've found the right place. With 57 apartments over a landscaped courtyard with a pool and private cabanas, the condo side of The Hotel Williamsburg is poised as a summertime destination for those who can't stand to be too far from McCarren Park. And for those too busy buying vinyl albums to make their beds, hotel services such as room service and housekeeping are offered to all residents in the building.

BEST BROKER TO HIRE TO FIND YOU A PET-FRIENDLY APARTMENT, NO MATTER WHAT

Elaine Tross
Executive Vice President
Associate Broker
Halstead Properties, LLC
917-748-4043
www.petfriendlymanhattanrealestate.com
Finding an apartment in NYC is tough enough, so the last thing you want is to find the perfect place, only to discover your pooch isn't allowed in the building. That's where agents like Elaine Tross come in. "Certain buildings will allow certain pets. ... Some buildings you can take a dog in an elevator, and in some you'll have to take a service entrance," Tross explains. "I make it as easy and friendly as possible." Think you've got your bases covered? Check out her website, Petfriendly manhattanrealestate.com, where you'll find tips on pet résumés (yes) and other pet-service picks in the city.

BEST DAY-CATION THAT WILL GET YOU BACK IN THE CITY BY NIGHTFALL

The Cloisters Museum and Gardens
99 Margaret Corbin Dr., Fort Tryon Park
212-923-3700
It will get you back into the city by nightfall because it's still in the city (but pretty far removed). You can take the A train to visit this quiet, lovely spot filled with medieval art. The current exhibit, "The Game of Kings: Medieval Ivory Chessmen from the Isle of Lewis," features 34 chessmen from the famous Lewis Chessmen, a cache of luxury goods from the 12th century found in 1831 off the west coast of Scotland.

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Is it curtains for the queen?

MIKE VAN SLEEN

▶ "The Supernatural Wife" is playing at the BAM Harvey Theater.

In an ancient world ruled by capricious gods, death is not necessarily forever. A doomed king finds a surrogate to die in his place. The surrogate — in the case of "The Supernatural Wife," Queen Alkestis — reappears after her trip to Hades.

Big Dance Theater, the alchemical ensemble founded 20 years ago by choreographer Annie-B Parson and director Paul Lazar, scores another triumph with this very old story, updated to represent Herakles, a family friend (Pete Simpson), as a drummer who shoots down a chandelier. Molly Hickok plays the king; Alkestis, sacrificing herself for her husband, is Tymberly Canale.

Based on Euripides' play as recently translated by Anne Carson, the compact piece represents some characters as talking heads on TV screens, leaving the six actors free to be both members of the chorus and figures in the drama. They move from intoning the text to dancing in contemporary ways, their feet running forward as their arms and hands send semaphore signals. Oana Botez Ban's costumes allow the cast its many transformations; Joanne Howard's spare set is pitch-perfect.

In its flip, casual way, the piece engages ancient philosophical and ethical questions that fascinate today. Although it frames the queen's decision to die as noble self-sacrifice, one wonders if the fact that the king seems to be a dork has anything to do with it. One also wonders what's behind the current range for transmuting Greek plays into contemporary shows. Big Dance Theater does this sort of mysterious transformation better than anyone else. We wish this production could run longer.

ELIZABETH ZIMMER
elizabeth.zimmer@metro.us

If you go

Big Dance Theater
'The Supernatural Wife'
Through Saturday
BAM Harvey Theater
651 Fulton St.
$16-$60, 718-636-4100
www.bam.org

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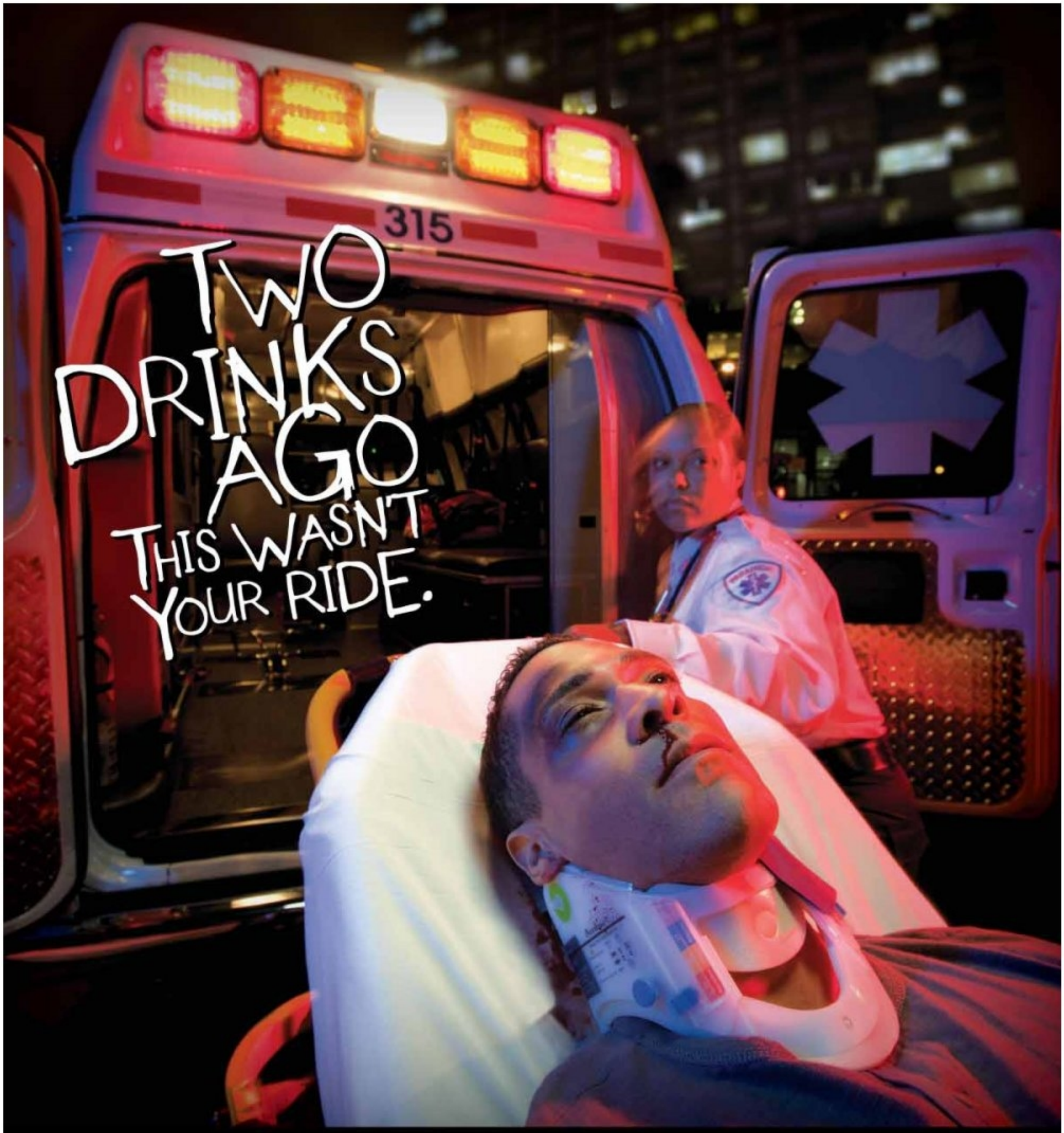

EXCESSIVE DRINKING IS DANGEROUS.

Stop drinking while you're still thinking.

NYC Health

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Thomas Farley, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

Sundays get more 'Sucker Free'

MTV2 celebrates rap's illustrious past and its Odd Future Sway Calloway on hip-hop's big happenings

MTV2 has been referring to their end-of-the-week hip-hop barrage as Sucker Free Sundays for the past nine years. But this Sunday, it gets even more sucker-free.

At 11 p.m., the network commemorates the wild year that was with its first "Sucker Free Awards," a celebration of all the unexpected collaborations, comebacks and breakthroughs that happened in hip-hop in 2011. Then at midnight, the network brings back a variation of an MTV institution. The show "Yo! MTV Raps: Classic Cuts" gives a reverent nod to the acts who first defined the hip-hop landscape. In addition to videos from A Tribe Called Quest, Geto Boys and Ice Cube, "Cuts" also features those trailblazing artists talking about their clips.

Veteran VJ Sway Calloway will host the inaugural "Sucker Free Awards." Though he's excited about the show, he seems even more awestruck about the chance to emcee "Yo! MTV Raps" as well.

"If I never do anything else," he says, "I'm glad I got a chance to do that."

As for the awards, Calloway won't reveal any winners — but he did share his thoughts on the three most important hip-hop happenings of the year.

The rise of Odd Future
"They were discovered by the consumer, and their popularity grew as their fan base grew through social media. ... Then it became like a wildfire."

The Watch the Throne album and tour
"With Kanye [West], it was almost like his big brother giving him the final stamp of approval and humbling himself to do this at the peak of his career with Jay-Z. And Jay was making himself slightly vulnerable to be open to a lot of suggestions from Kanye. And the music they came up with? I called it a classic hip-hop album with wings, because of the place it took us. It took us to places where we've never gone."

PAUL EHMANS/PICTURE GROUP

Lil Wayne had a banner year.

Lil Wayne's "Tha Carter IV"
"I remember the day he was released [from jail]. ... The whole world may as well have been on Rikers Island. That energy is a testament to 'Tha Carter IV,' because we were used to Wayne releasing music so abundantly and quickly — and then he makes us wait! And then 'Tha Carter IV' came out and Wayne by himself nearly doubled the sales of Jay and Kanye, and that's a testament to the anticipation everybody felt."

PAT HEALY
pat.healy@metro.us

TV watch list

'Neverland'

DRAMA. Peter Pan wasn't always a tights-wearing friend of fairies who never wanted to grow up. This two-night, four-hour miniseries gives Peter (Charlie Rowe) and Captain Hook (Rhys Ifans) an origin story that starts in 1900s England, where the pair are a couple of crooks who find an orb that transports them to the magical realm of Neverland.
Miniseries premiere, Sunday, 9 p.m., Syfy

'The Take'

DRAMA. "Inception" star Tom Hardy does crime a little more traditionally — no dream levels here — as a con just released from prison who's itching to make a name for himself in the underworld.
Miniseries premiere, Friday, 9 p.m., Encore

AMBER RAY

Film Society Lincoln Center - Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center
212-875-5600
144 West 65th Street Between Broadway + Amsterdam Avenues
CONVERSATION WITH IRINA PETRESCU (NR) Sat 2:00
DIGGING FORR LIFE (DOINA GROPARILOR) (NR) Fri 7:00, 8:15
KAPITALISM: OUR IMPROVED FORMULA (KAPITALISM - RETETA NOASTRA SECRETA) (NR) Sun 1:00, 3:00
MARGIN CALL (R) Fri and Sat 10:30, 12:55, 3:15, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15; Sun 10:30-12:55-3:15-5:40-8:00.
MATILDA (PG) Sat 11:00
SHORTS (PG) Fri 1:00; Sat 4:00.
SLEEPING BEAUTY (NR) Fri and Sat 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:40; Sun 11:00-1:20-3:40-6:00-8:20.
WILLY WONKA & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY (G) Sun 11:00

Film Society Lincoln Center - Walter Reade Theater
212-875-5600
Lincoln Center & W. 65th St.
ADALBERT'S DREAM (NR) Sun 7:30
THE DANUBE WAVES (VALURILE DUNARII) (NR) Fri 9:00
ERUPTION (NR) Fri 3:45
FOREST OF THE HANGED (NR) Fri 6:00
HELLO! HOW ARE YOU? (BUNA! CE FACI?) (NR) Sat 5:30
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: RODELINDA LIVE (NR) Sat 12:30
MORGEN (NR) Fri 1:30
OUTBOUND (PERIFERIC) (NR) Sun 1:00
PRINCIPLES OF LIFE (PRINCIPII DE VIATA) (NR) Sat 7:30
THE RAGE (R) Sun 5:30
STUFF AND DOUGH (MARFA SI BANII) (NR) Sun 3:30

AMC Empire 25
888-AMC-4FUN
42nd Street Between 7th and 8th Avenues
THE DESCENDANTS (R) Fri and Sat 10:15, 11:15, 12:15, 1:15, 2:15, 3:15, 4:15, 5:15, 6:15, 7:15, 8:15, 9:15, 10:15, 11:15, 12:15, 1:00.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:15-11:15-12:15-1:15-2:15-3:15-4:15-5:15-6:15-7:15-8:15-9:15-10:15-11:15.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
DESI BOYZ (NR) 3:25, 10:00. Digital Presentation
THE DIRTY PICTURE (NR) 12:30, 4:05, 7:30, 10:55. Digital Presentation
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) Fri and Sat 11:20, 2:05, 4:45, 7:35, 10:20, 12:55. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:20-2:05-4:45-7:35-10:20. Digital Presentation
HAPPY FEET TWO IN 3D (PG) Fri 10:40, 12:05, 1:25, 2:50, 4:10, 5:35, 6:55, 8:20, 9:40, 11:00, 12:20. RealD 3D; Sat 10:25-12:05-2:50-4:10-5:35-8:20-9:40-11:00-12:20. RealD 3D; Sun 10:40-1:25-2:50-4:10-5:35-6:55-8:20-9:40-11:00. RealD 3D
HAPPY FEET TWO: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG) 10:00, 12:50, 3:35, 6:20, 9:05, 11:45. IMAX 3D
HUGO (PG) 10:30, 1:45, 4:55, 8:05, 11:10. Digital Presentation
HUGO 3D (PG) 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10. ETX: Enhanced Theatre Experience;RealD 3D; Fri and Sat 11:40-2:55-6:00-9:10-12:10. RealD 3D; Sun 11:40-2:55-6:00-9:10. RealD 3D
I AM SINGH (NR) 12:25, 4:20, 7:50, 11:35. Digital Presentation
THE IDES OF MARCH (R) Fri and Sat 1:20, 7:10, 12:50. Digital Presentation; Sun 1:20-7:10. Digital Presentation
IN TIME (PG-13) Fri 10:10, 11:30, 12:55, 2:10, 3:40, 5:00, 6:25, 7:45, 9:20, 10:30, 12:05. Digital Presentation; Sat 11:30-2:10-5:00-6:25-7:45-9:20-10:30-12:05. Digital Presentation; Sun 12:55-3:40-5:00-6:25-7:45-9:20-10:30-12:00. Digital Presentation
J. EDGAR (R) 10:45, 12:10, 2:00, 5:20, 6:45, 8:35, 11:50. Digital Presentation
JACK AND JILL (PG) Fri 10:05, 11:00, 11:50, 12:35, 1:30, 2:20, 3:10, 4:00, 4:50, 5:40, 6:30, 7:20, 8:10, 9:00, 9:50, 10:40, 11:30, 12:25. Digital Presentation; Sat 11:50-1:30-2:20-4:00-4:50-5:55-6:30-7:20-8:25-9:00-9:50-10:50-11:30-12:25. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:05-11:00-11:50-12:35-1:30-3:10-4:00-5:40-6:30-7:20-8:10-9:00-9:50-10:40-11:30. Digital Presentation
KINYARWANDA (NR) 11:05, 1:55, 4:45, 7:40, 10:25.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
LIKE CRAZY (PG-13) 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:05, 9:30, 11:55.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: RODELINDA LIVE (NR) Sat 12:30
MONEYBALL (PG-13) 10:10, 3:55, 9:45. Digital Presentation
MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) Fri and Sat 10:05, 11:25, 12:45, 2:05, 3:20, 4:40, 6:05, 7:25, 8:45, 10:05, 11:25, 12:45.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:05-11:25-12:45-2:05-3:20-4:40-6:05-7:25-8:45-10:05-11:25.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
POKEMON THE MOVIE: WHITE - VICTINI AND ZEKROM (NR) Sat and Sun 10:10. Digital Presentation
THE SMURFS 3D (PG) Sat 1:00, 7:00. RealD 3D; Sun 12:00. RealD 3D
ST. OLAF CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL LIVE (NR) Sun 3:30
THE YELLOW SEA (HWANGHAE) (R) 12:20, 3:30, 6:40, 9:55. Digital Presentation

AMC Loews Kips Bay 15
888-AMC-4FUN
Corner of 31st Street and 2nd Avenue
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) Fri 9:30, 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45, 11:55. RealD 3D; Sat 9:30-12:05-2:30-4:55-7:20-9:40-11:55. RealD 3D; Sun 9:30-12:05-2:30-4:55-7:20-9:45. RealD 3D
THE DESCENDANTS (R) Fri and Sat 9:40, 10:15, 12:20, 1:00, 3:00, 3:40, 5:40, 6:15, 8:20, 8:50, 10:55, 11:20.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:40-10:30-12:20-1:15-3:00-4:10-5:40-7:00-8:20-9:45-10:55.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
HAPPY FEET TWO: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG) 10:30, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30. IMAX 3D
HUGO 3D (PG) Fri 9:40, 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00, 11:45. RealD 3D; Sat and Sun 9:40-12:30-3:20-6:10-9:00. RealD 3D
THE IDES OF MARCH (R) Fri and Sat 10:05, 3:30, 9:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:15-3:50-9:45. Digital Presentation
IMMORTALS 3D (R) 9:30, 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:25. RealD 3D
J. EDGAR (R) 9:55, 12:55, 3:55, 6:55, 9:55. Digital Presentation
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: RODELINDA LIVE (NR) Sat 12:30
MONEYBALL (PG-13) Fri and Sat 12:30, 6:00, 11:30. Digital Presentation; Sun 12:45-6:30. Digital Presentation
THE MUPPETS (PG) 9:30, 12:05, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20. Digital Presentation
MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) Fri 9:35, 12:00, 2:25, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35, 11:55.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 9:35-12:00-2:25-4:45-7:10-9:35.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
PUSS IN BOOTS 3D (PG) Fri and Sat 9:50, 12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15. RealD 3D; Sun 9:50-12:05-2:15-4:30-6:45-9:00. RealD 3D
TOWER HEIST (PG-13) 9:50, 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) Fri 9:30, 10:30, 12:10, 1:10, 2:50, 3:50, 5:30, 6:30, 8:15, 9:10, 10:55, 11:50. Digital Presentation; Sat 9:00-9:30-12:10-2:50-5:30-8:15-10:55. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:30-12:10-1:10-2:50-3:50-5:30-6:30-8:15-9:10-10:55. Digital Presentation
A VERY HAROLD & KUMAR 3D CHRISTMAS (R) Fri and Sat 10:00, 12:30, 2:45, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, 11:55. RealD 3D; Sun 10:00-12:30-2:45-5:15-7:30-9:45. RealD 3D

Regal Union Square Stadium 14
800-326-3264 628
13th & Broadway
THE DESCENDANTS (R) Fri and Sat 11:20, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:50, 5:50, 7:30, 8:30, 10:20, 11:00, 12:35; Sun 11:20-12:30-2:00-3:00-4:50-5:50-7:30-8:30-10:20-11:00.
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) 11:05, 1:35, 4:00
HAPPY FEET TWO IN 3D (PG) 12:05, 2:35, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30. RealD 3D
HUGO (PG) Fri and Sat 12:10, 3:15, 6:10, 9:05, 11:50; Sun 12:10-5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:50, 10:45, 12:00; Sun 11:00-12:00-1:30-2:30-4:20-5:20-7:00-8:00-9:50-10:45.
PUSS IN BOOTS (PG) 3:10, 7:55
PUSS IN BOOTS 3D (PG) 12:20, 5:30, 10:15. RealD 3D
ST. OLAF CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL LIVE (NR) Sun 3:30
TOWER HEIST (PG-13) 11:30, 2:40, 5:25, 8:10, 10:40

AMC Loews 34th Street 14
888-AMC-4FUN
312 W. 34th St.; between 8th and 9th Avenues
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 8:10, 10:50. RealD 3D
HAPPY FEET TWO IN 3D (PG) 1:30, 4:10, 6:50. RealD 3D
HAPPY FEET TWO: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG) 11:45, 2:20, 5:15, 7:50, 10:30. IMAX 3D
HUGO 3D (PG) 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40. RealD 3D
IMMORTALS (R) 6:30, 9:20. Digital Presentation
IMMORTALS 3D (R) Fri and Sat 11:50, 2:30, 5:30, 8:20, 11:10. RealD 3D; Sun 11:50-2:30-5:30-8:20-10:55. RealD 3D
J. EDGAR (R) 12:20, 3:30, 6:45, 10:10. Digital Presentation
JACK AND JILL (PG) Fri and Sat 11:15, 1:40, 4:20, 6:40, 9:10, 11:30. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:15-1:40-4:20-6:40-9:10. Digital Presentation
THE MUPPETS (PG) 11:30, 1:00, 2:05, 3:45, 4:50, 7:30, 10:20. Digital Presentation
POKEMON THE MOVIE: WHITE - VICTINI AND ZEKROM (NR) Sat and Sun 11:00. Digital Presentation
PUSS IN BOOTS 3D (PG) 11:40, 2:10, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45. RealD 3D
TOWER HEIST (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:10, 12:30, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30, 11:20. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:10-12:30-3:15-5:45-8:30-11:00. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) Fri 11:05, 12:00, 1:15, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00. Digital Presentation; Sat 11:05-12:00-1:20-2:00-3:00-4:00-5:00-6:00-7:00-8:00-9:00-10:00-11:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:05-12:00-1:20-2:00-3:00-4:00-5:00-6:00-7:00-8:00-9:00-10:00-10:50. Digital Presentation
A VERY HAROLD & KUMAR 3D CHRISTMAS (R) Fri 11:00, 9:30. RealD 3D; Sat and Sun 9:30. RealD 3D

AMC Loews Lincoln Square 13
888-AMC-4FUN
1998 Broadway
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) Fri 10:50, 1:35, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50. RealD 3D; Sat 1:35-4:20-7:10-9:50. RealD 3D; Sun 10:50-1:35-4:20-7:10-9:50. RealD 3D
CORIOLANUS (R) 10:40, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
THE DESCENDANTS (R) 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
PUSS IN BOOTS (PG) 11:20, 1:50, 4:15. Digital Presentation
SHAME (NC-17) 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 6:45, 7:30, 10:15.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
TOWER HEIST (PG-13) 11:35, 2:15, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 11:00, 2:00, 4:55, 7:50, 10:50. Digital Presentation

Regal E-Walk 13
800-326-3264
247 W 42nd St @ 8th Ave - In Times Square
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) Fri 12:40, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:40; Sat 3:05-5:35-8:05-10:40.; Sun 12:40-3:05-5:35-8:05-10:40.
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) 11:35, 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:40, 12:10. RealD 3D
IMMORTALS (R) 12:30, 3:00, 5:45, 8:10, 10:45
IMMORTALS 3D (R) 11:40, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55, 12:30. RealD 3D
THE MUPPETS (PG) 11:20, 12:20, 1:15, 1:55, 2:55, 3:50, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:15, 8:15, 10:00, 10:55, 12:45
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 3 (R) 9:10, 11:20
PUSS IN BOOTS (PG) 12:25, 5:05, 10:05
PUSS IN BOOTS 3D (PG) 2:50, 7:30. RealD 3D
TOWER HEIST (PG-13) 12:00, 2:40, 5:25, 8:20, 11:00
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 12:10, 1:20, 3:15, 4:10, 6:00, 7:00, 8:50, 9:50, 11:40; 11:30-2:20-5:10-8:00-10:50. RPX
A VERY HAROLD & KUMAR 3D CHRISTMAS (R) 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:30, 12:00

Regal Battery Park Stadium 11
800-326-3264 629
102 North End Avenue - Vesey & West Street
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 12:20, 5:10, 10:15
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) 2:45, 7:40. RealD 3D
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) 12:05, 4:50, 9:50
HAPPY FEET TWO IN 3D (PG) 2:35, 7:20. RealD 3D
HUGO (PG) Fri and Sat 4:10, 12:00; Sun 4:10.
HUGO 3D (PG) 1:00, 7:00, 9:55. RealD 3D
IDES OF MARCH & MONEYBALL (NR) 1:10, 6:40
IMMORTALS (R) 12:30, 5:30, 10:45
IMMORTALS 3D (R) Fri and Sat 3:00, 8:10, 12:10. RealD 3D; Sun 3:00-8:10. RealD 3D
J. EDGAR (R) Fri and Sat 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20, 11:45; Sun 12:50-4:00-7:10-10:20.
JACK AND JILL (PG) 12:10, 2:15, 4:30, 6:50, 9:20
THE MUPPETS (PG) 11:45, 2:20, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10
PUSS IN BOOTS (PG) 12:15, 2:30, 4:40, 6:55, 9:30
TOWER HEIST (PG-13) 12:25, 2:50, 5:20, 8:00, 10:30
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) Fri and Sat 1:20, 4:20, 7:15, 10:00, 11:35; Sun 1:20-4:20-7:15-10:00.

Clearview's Chelsea
212-777-FILM
260 West 23rd Street at 8th Avenue; Between 7th & 8th Avenues
THE DESCENDANTS (R) 11:10, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15; Fri and Sat 12:15-3:00-5:45-9:00-11:50. Digital Projection; Sun 12:15-3:00-5:45-9:00. Digital Projection
HUGO 3D (PG) 10:45, 1:45, 4:45, 8:00, 11:00
J. EDGAR (R) 10:15, 1:15, 4:20, 7:40, 10:45
MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) Fri and Sat 11:15, 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00, 12:15. Digital Projection; Sun 11:15-2:00-4:30-7:15-10:00. Digital Projection
THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (R) Fri and Sat 12:00
SHAME (NC-17) 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:45; Fri and Sat 11:00-11:45-1:30-2:15-4:15-5:00-7:00-7:45-9:45-10:30-12:20. Digital Projection; Sun 11:00-11:45-1:30-2:15-4:15-5:00-7:00-7:45-9:45-10:30. Digital Projection
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 12:45, 3:30, 6:15, 9:15

AMC Magic Johnson Harlem 9
888-AMC-4FUN
2309 Frederick Douglass Boulevard & 124th Street
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 2:30, 7:30. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) 11:45, 5:00, 10:10. RealD 3D
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) Fri and Sat 11:05, 1:45. Digital Presentation; Sun 1:45. Digital Presentation
HAPPY FEET TWO IN 3D (PG) 12:50, 3:30, 6:05, 8:45, 11:10. RealD 3D
IMMORTALS 3D (R) 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35. RealD 3D
JACK AND JILL (PG) 11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:55, 8:20, 10:45. Digital Presentation
THE MUPPETS (PG) 11:00, 1:40, 4:35, 7:30, 10:25. Digital Presentation
POKEMON THE MOVIE: WHITE - VICTINI AND ZEKROM (NR) Sat and Sun 11:15. Digital Presentation
PUSS IN BOOTS (PG) 1:30, 6:30, 11:05. Digital Presentation
PUSS IN BOOTS 3D (PG) Fri and Sat 11:10, 4:00, 8:50. RealD 3D; Sun 4:00-8:50. RealD 3D
TOWER HEIST (PG-13) 4:30, 7:15, 9:45. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) Fri 11:30, 1:00, 2:30, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:10. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 1:00-2:30-4:00-5:30-7:00-8:30-10:00-11:10. Digital Presentation

AMC Loews Orpheum 7
888-AMC-4FUN
3rd Avenue & 86th Street
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 1:35, 7:00. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) 11:00, 4:15, 9:35. RealD 3D
HUGO 3D (PG) 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:30, 10:30. RealD 3D
IMMORTALS 3D (R) Fri and Sat 10:20, 12:55, 3:50, 7:20, 10:15. RealD 3D; Sun 12:55-3:50-7:20-10:15. RealD 3D
J. EDGAR (R) Fri and Sat 10:20, 1:35, 5:05, 8:30. Digital Presentation; Sun 1:35-5:05-8:30. Digital Presentation
JACK AND JILL (PG) 10:10, 12:25, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20. Digital Presentation
POKEMON THE MOVIE: WHITE - VICTINI AND ZEKROM (NR) Sat and Sun 10:10. Digital Presentation
TOWER HEIST (PG-13) Fri 10:10, 12:45, 3:30, 6:30, 9:15. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 12:45-3:30-6:30-9:15. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:50, 1:45, 4:40, 8:00, 11:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:50-1:45-4:40-7:45-10:30. Digital Presentation

AMC Loews Village 7
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66 Third Avenue at 11th Street
50/50 (R) Fri 10:00, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:50. Digital Presentation; Sat 10:00-6:00-8:30-10:50. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-1:00-3:30-6:00-8:30-10:50. Digital Presentation
ANSWERS TO NOTHING (R) 10:45, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 1:30, 7:00. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) 11:00, 4:00, 9:30. RealD 3D
THE BIG FIX (NR) 12:45, 6:00.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
IMMORTALS 3D (R) 11:30, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:30. RealD 3D
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: RODELINDA LIVE (NR) Sat 12:30
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 10:30, 12:15, 1:15, 3:15, 4:15, 6:15, 7:15, 8:15, 9:15, 10:15, 11:00. Digital Presentation

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Bruce DeMara, TORONTO STAR

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James Verniere, BOSTON HERALD

"ONE OF THE FUNNIEST FILMS THIS YEAR."
Gregory Ellwood, HITFIX

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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

On Fridays, Dorothy will post the best tweets she received during the week. You can always let her know what you think — good or bad — at @dorothyatmetro.

The last two weeks were humdingers. I not only wrote in The Word that Jennifer Lopez needed to put some pants on, but I also defended Michelle Bachmann (eek!) after The Roots played "Lyin' Ass B—" by Fishbone while she was a guest on "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon." I blame the pregnancy hormones.

▶ **@gsemike:** Bravo! That's not how you treat a 'guest'. I definitely think less of the roots today.

▶ **@Eminems Revenge:** YOUR anti-#Roots rant today just prove what i suspected all along: #metrous is a #RACIST #rightWing rag!

▶ **@xanderall:** If The Roots were on their own, they could call Bachmann whatever they wanted, but they weren't. They were hired by NBC.

▶ **@andrewfelluss:** M.Bachman is a b— because she's an opportunistic and racist liar, not because she is a woman. fishbone rocks

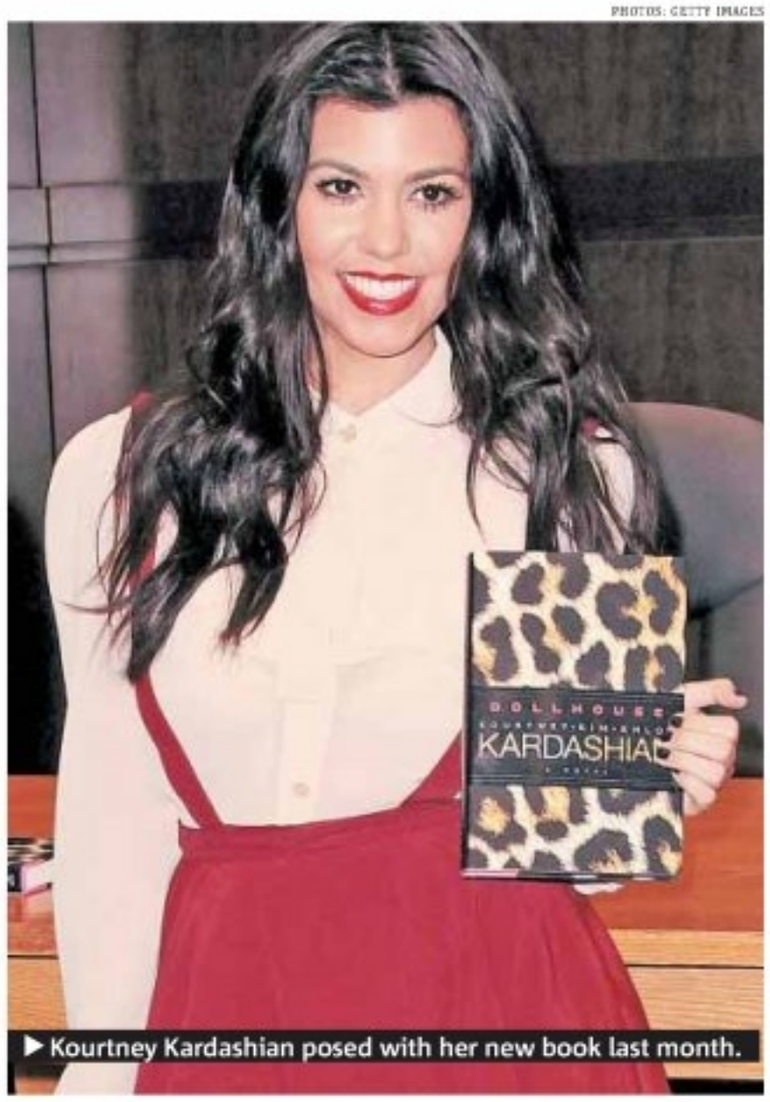
▶ **@TheAuthentic:** this is #America where we have Freedom Of Speech #Philly respects what @TheRoots did regarding #Bachman we all feel that way

▶ **@duxander:** thank u for saying it like it is. Jlo shld freaking start dressing her age.

▶ **@Tashiie:** Reading "The Word" in todays Metro by @dorothyatmetro and she is Hating on Jlo bad. Shes hot and your not !!!!

A Kardashian announces pregnancy, but why so early?

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES



▶ Kourtney Kardashian posed with her new book last month.

As you have probably heard, **Kourtney Kardashian** released a statement via E! News on Wednesday announcing her second pregnancy with boyfriend **Scott Disick**. "I'm nine weeks along," Kourtney then told Us Weekly for a pre-approved feature. "You're supposed to wait 12 weeks to tell people, but I feel confident." She has since kept mum on the pregnancy and hasn't granted any other interviews regarding it.

Did you read that quote? She knows it's too early for this to be common knowledge, but in a strategic announcement, she's telling the entire world anyway. As a fellow pregnant lady, this just strikes me as fishy. Is she just being foolish, or is there something else afoot? With odds of miscarriage in the first trimester around 10 to 25 percent, any doctor (or PR rep) would strongly advise you not to announce your pregnancy until at least your second trimester — and they are just talking about posting it as a status update on Facebook, not alerting the entire world via a prepared statement.

So why in the world would she announce this so early and so methodically? To take the heat off of **Kim**'s mistake of a marriage? Or — and I know how bonkers this sounds — in order to set up a miscarriage storyline in a few weeks? Ugh. I've lost it, friends. The Kardashians are turning me into a crazy conspiracy theorist. That's why I'm sporting a tin foil cap in my head shot — to keep out the mind rays.

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DOROTHY ROBINSON'S WORD BLOG

Talking points

Spears' engagement imminent

There's been plenty of speculation about when **Britney Spears** and **Jason Trawick** might take the next step toward marriage, and it's reportedly going to be very soon. "They've been talking about marriage for a long time," a source tells People magazine. "It would be surprising if they are not engaged by the end of the year." In fact, the engagement is so close that, according to the source, Trawick has already picked out a ring.

Spears and Trawick

ScarJo is a jealous ex

Even though her marriage to **Ryan Reynolds** ended last year, **Scarlett Johansson** is still reportedly preoccupied with his love life — and sources say she absolutely loathes his latest girlfriend, **Blake Lively**, according to Us Weekly. "Scarlett is pissed that he's not under her spell anymore," a source says. "She realized what a great catch Ryan was." Adding insult to injury? The fact that while Johansson's post-divorce romance with **Sean Penn** fizzled out, Reynolds and Lively seem to be going strong. "Things are great [for Blake and Ryan]," says the source. "They haven't had a fight yet."

Could Murray be home for Xmas?

Despite being sentenced to four years in prison for involuntary manslaughter, **Dr. Conrad Murray** could be home for Christmas, according to Radar Online. The disgraced doc was given the maximum sentence for his role in the death of **Michael Jackson**, but because of overcrowding problems in California prisons, it's expected that Murray will serve out the bulk of his sentence under house arrest. "Dr. Murray's lawyers are actually relieved that Judge Pastor didn't sentence him to community service, like **Lindsay Lohan** is doing at the morgue," a source says. "That would have been an absolute nightmare for him. ... It wouldn't have been safe for him to be picking up trash on the freeway or cleaning up graffiti."

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These stars are getting a head start on Xmas shopping

1. Even royalty needs to shop! Heir apparent to Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Charles was seen at the Waitrose supermarket in Dorset, England, last Friday. What are they all laughing at in this picture? Could Prince Charles actually be funny?

2. Actress Chloe Sevigny shopped locally for Small Business Saturday at Other Music in New York City last Saturday.

3. Model Christy Turlington also got into the "shop local" spirit at Torly Kids Shops in New York City on Saturday.

4. Lauren Conrad did a little holiday shopping with four teenagers from the Children's Hospital Los Angeles at the Westchester Kohl's Department Store in Westchester, Calif., last Monday.

5. Across the ocean, Bruce Willis was spotted doing some holiday shopping on Rue Saint-Honore with his family in Paris, France, last Friday.

6. A very pregnant Jessica Simpson was seen shopping at Barney's on Sunday night in New York City.

7. Nicole Richie shopped locally for Small Business Saturday in Los Angeles on Saturday.

1: ARTHUR EDWARDS - WPA POOL/GETTY IMAGES
2: TROS ROBINSON/WIREIMAGE FOR AMERICAN EXPRESS
3: CRAIG BARRETT/WIREIMAGE FOR AMERICAN EXPRESS
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Fassbender's own 'Shame'

Watching himself have sex onscreen isn't the most comfortable thing in the world, but Hollywood's rising star, Michael Fassbender, is willing to suffer for his art

ABBOT GENSER

▶ Michael Fassbender's Brandon doesn't enjoy most of the sex he's having in "Shame."

Michael Fassbender has been talking about sex all day long. He's looking a bit weary as he hunches over, elbows on his knees in the Crosby Street Hotel, trying to explain how he managed to simulate so many torrid scenes for his NC-17 film "Shame" — about a sex addict living in New York City. In between explaining to us what "Fancy a root?" means in Australia (sex) and his ideal choice for an Oscar host (Tina Fey), the 34-year-old German-born Irishman opened up about shooting so much full-frontal nudity. He didn't mind that part, but watching those scenes is another story.

"It was — I'm sure you understand, you just sort of imagine it was you — it's odd. The faces that one pulls in these encounters — I wanted it to be very honest without any filtering or anything," Fassbender says with a slightly embarrassed grin. "So it's kind of full-on seeing yourself. It's kind of like listening to your answering machine back on your phone system. That's bad enough, so imagine yourself naked."

Fassbender is having a particularly sexy year, given that he's also starring in "A Dangerous Method" as psychotherapist Carl Jung, whose methods of treatment for a young woman become, ahem, carnal. We wondered what Jung might've had to say to Fassbender's "Shame" persona, Brandon.

"I think he'd first of all tell him that it's all right," he says. "To be a little bit kinder to himself. I think Brandon doesn't like himself very much and so he sets about abusing himself. So that's what he'd say and then he'd probably say, 'Go see my friend Ziggy Freud.'"

Working with Steve McQueen

This is Fassbender's second collaboration with artist-turned-director Steve McQueen, with whom he made "Hunger," about Irish poet and hunger striker Bobby Sands. With the two already set to make another feature together, "Twelve Years, a Slave" co-starring Brad Pitt, Fassbender explained what has made their partnership so unique.

"I don't know. It's just one of those things. It's like chemistry," he says. "It just sort of works. We're both very comfortable being ourselves around each other with all the ugly attributes as well as the good. We're very honest with each other and we demand the best from each other and ourselves. We're trying our best and we trust each other so if we fall, we're going to go down together and hopefully help each other back up again."

FOR THE COMPLETE PROFILE, VISIT WWW.METRO.US/MOVIES

HEIDI PATALANO
heidi.patalano@metro.us

NEWLY CONSTRUCTED APARTMENTS FOR RENT

El Milagro Apartments is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for **63** affordable housing rental apartments now under construction at **1808 Southern Boulevard** in the Crotona Park section of **The Bronx.** This building is being constructed through the New Housing Opportunities Program (NEW HOP) of the New York City Housing Development Corporation (HDC), and the Multi-Family Rental – Mod/Mid Program of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD). The size, rent, and targeted income distribution for the 63 apartments are as follows:

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13	Studio	1	$872	$31,680	$57,300
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4	1 Bedroom	1 - 2	$1,066	$39,497	$65,500
9	2 Bedroom	2 3 4	$995	$36,034 $36,034 $36,034	$39,300 $44,220 $49,080
30	2 Bedroom	1(i) 2 3 - 4	$1,322	$47,246 $47,246 $47,246	$65,500 $73,700 $81,800

*Subject to Occupancy Criteria **Includes gas for cooking ***Income guidelines subject to change
(i) Households of 2 or more will be given preference for 2 bedroom units

Qualified Applicants will be required to meet income guidelines and additional selection criteria. To request an application, **mail a SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE to: El Milagro Apartments c/o: The Wavecrest Management Team, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418, or download from www.elmilagroapts.com. Completed applications must be returned by regular mail only (no priority, certified, registered, expressed or overnight mail will be accepted) to a post office box number that will be listed with the application, and must be postmarked by 2/10/12.** Applications postmarked after **2/10/12** will be set aside for possible future consideration. Applications will be selected by lottery; applicants who submit more than one application will be disqualified. Disqualified applications will not be accepted. A general preference will be given to New York City residents. Current and eligible residents of **Bronx Community Board 3** will receive preference for 50% of the units. Eligible households that include persons with mobility impairments will receive preference for 5% of the units; eligible persons that include persons with visual and/or hearing impairments will receive preference for 2% of the units; and eligible City of New York Municipal Employees will receive a preference for 5% of the units.

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THE RUNDOWN

Metro's guide to what's happening in your city this week

Sit in for a modern retelling of Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" by Baba Brinkman, who has added hip-hop and rap elements to the timeless classic.

Conference

TEDxBrooklyn
Friday, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., Brooklyn Bowl, 61 Wythe Ave., Williamsburg
TEDxBrooklyn, the local spin-off of the hugely successful uber conference TED, brings together local personalities and leaders including Ciel Hunter and Julia Kaganskiy of The Creators Project, comedian Eugene Mirman, filmmaker Ruth Ozeki, and CEO Chad Dickerson of Etsy to spread ideas via short talks. ROZALIA JOVANOVIC

Music

Jukebox the Ghost
Friday, 7 p.m., Brooklyn Bowl, 61 Wythe Ave., Williamsburg, $10-$12
Trio Jukebox the Ghost draw ready comparisons to Ben Folds Five, with jubilant sing-alongs ("Hold It In") as well as indie jams with borderline operatics. We're hoping they play their cover of "I Love You Always Forever." LEAH TAYLOR

"The Canterbury Tales Remixed"
Sunday through Jan. 8, SoHo Playhouse, 15 Vandam St., $39-$55
www.sohoplayhouse.com
This is an unique presentation of Geoffrey Chaucer's classic "Canterbury Tales" as modern hip-hop lyrics and rap dramatics are masterfully employed to bring these timeless stories to life in a brand-new light. Theatergoers who enjoy classic literature infused with a hint of modernity will definitely be delighted at this Baba Brinkman production. METRO/NL

Theater

"Other Desert Cities"
Through March 25, Booth Theatre, 222 W. 45th St., $56-$121
In our humble opinion, this is the best play on Broadway right now — the kind of intelligent reflection of current life that we used to expect from theater. It's a finely crafted family tale that explodes across the stage, and the intriguing Rachel Griffiths stars. JIM TAYLOR

Art

K-NARF: "PHOTOGRAFFITI"
Through Jan. 15, Clic Gallery, 255 Centre St., free
This French-born street artist, with his kitschy neo-pop photo-and-Scotch-tape creations, seems primed to join the ranks of the cynical self-merchandising artists like Jeff Koons and Takashi Murakami. RJ

Joan Mitchell: "The Last Paintings"
Through Jan. 4, Cheim & Read, 547 W. 25th St., free
Joan Mitchell is one of the few female members of the American Abstract expressionist movement to gain critical and popular acclaim. This impressive show brings together 13 works, dating 1985-1992, painted outside of Paris, where Mitchell lived out the last decades of her life. RJ

Food

SmorgasBrewery
Sundays, noon to 5 p.m., Brooklyn Brewery, 79 N. 11th St., Williamsburg, free
Local culinary heroes join forces with Brooklyn's finest brews for this winter addition to the flea family: a scaled-down version of Smorgasburg, the open-air food market held Saturdays throughout the summer at the Williamsburg waterfront, infiltrates the Brooklyn Brewery's Tasting Room. MINDY BOND

Brunch with Music by Michael Leviton
Sundays through Jan. 29, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., The Manhattan Inn, $15, 632 Manhattan Ave., Greenpoint, www.manhattaninn.blogspot.com
The Manhattan Inn is known for pairing its meals with live piano music; for the winter, Michael Leviton of the "New Jerk Times" will be performing while guests enjoy brunch. The restaurant will be offering a prix fixe menu with unlimited rum punch or Stumptown coffee. METRO/NL

Film

The Contenders
Through Jan. 26, MoMA, 11 W. 53rd St., $12
This year's edition of The Contenders includes Oscar bait like Clinton Eastwood's biopic "J. Edgar," Iranian Golden Bear-winner "A Separation," James Bobin's muppet update, and Cannes pick "Return." MB

Outside

Chase Away the Winter Blues Tour
Sunday, 1 p.m., Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave., free
Enter the winter landscape on a guided tour with licensed psychotherapist Lynne Spevack, who explains how to maintain a sunny disposition through the harshest months by discovering some of the plants and animals that enliven the otherwise chilly scene. RJ

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For more, go to: www.flavorpill.com

'Venus in Fur'

Through Dec. 18, Samuel J. Friedman Theater, 261 W. 47th St., $57-$131
See this show for a brilliant young actress (Nina Arianda) who commands the stage with her quirky, hilarious, unexpected and yes, very sexy presence. You won't forget her phenomenal performance. Well, OK, it is a little kinky.

Hugh Dancy and Nina Arianda star in "Venus in Fur."

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www.showboatac.com

The O'Jays
Friday, 9 p.m.
Harrah's Resort
$40-$65, 609-441-5786
www.harrahsresort.com

Tiesto
Friday, 10 p.m.
Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa
$75, 609-317-1000
www.theborgata.com

"1964" ... The Tribute
Saturday, 8 p.m.
Golden Nugget
$30-$50, 866-746-5336
www.goldennugget.com

James Blunt
Saturday, 9 p.m.
Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa
$55-$65, 609-317-1000

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James Blunt

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For more information, visit the Atlantic City Convention & Visitors Authority at www.atlanticcitynj.com and click on Calendar for event details.

www.theborgata.com

Comedy

Bill Burr
Friday, 8 p.m. & 11 p.m.
Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa
$35, 609-317-1000
www.theborgata.com

Family

"The Caesars Tribute II: A Salute to the Ladies of the Ice"
Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall
$39-$149, 609-348-7000
www.caesarsac.com
Among the confirmed skaters headlining "The Caesars Tribute II: A Salute to the Ladies of the Ice" will be the current world champion Miki Ando, 2002 Olympic Gold Medalist Sarah Hughes, 1998 Olympic Gold Medalist Tara Lipinski and two-time Olympic Medalist Nancy Kerrigan. The event will air nationally on NBC on New Year's Day.

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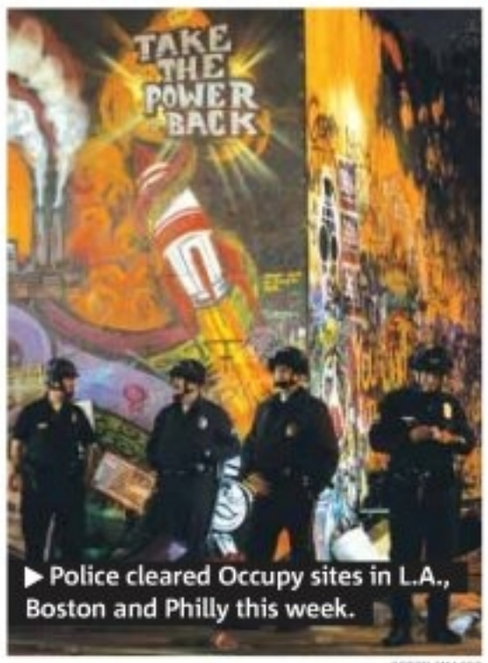
The Week That Was: Opinion

An elite band of well-connected criminals has cleverly siphoned trillions in dollars of national wealth into their private ownership over the past few decades as politicians and media pundits cheered them forward. We do not describe post-Soviet-collapse Russia; we speak of these ostensibly United States of America.

America has presided over what can be accurately described as the largest financial theft in human history — and it most definitely, certainly, 100 percent will happen again. And why not? These brilliant thieves — none other than our national leaders and titans of industry — have not been held accountable for their crimes. In fact, they have benefited monstrously.



▶ Police cleared Occupy sites in L.A., Boston and Philly this week.

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As police forces nationwide arrest thousands of protesters forced into the streets in a show of desperation over a grievous lack of political representation (rich politicians from both major parties know to support their corporate benefactors), we still face a justice system that has yet to punish the architects of our economic decline. This should be expected: The system is working exactly as intended.

What irks is the ire from everyday folk who foolishly condemn Occupiers as "parasites" — even as the promises of their future are quietly made into lies. We've become a nation of arrogant ostriches, quick to hate those with different viewpoints while ignoring the painful truth: The elected officials we supported have sold us out. And as we fight with one another, an ever-shrinking minority is happy to take advantage.

BRAYDEN SIMMS
brayden.simms@metro.us

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Please send 100-word submissions to letters@metro.us.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Before starting another project, be sure to first finish what you've already begun. Focus becomes difficult when you have too many things going on at the same time.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Be extremely selective regarding whose counsel you follow. Going with the wrong advice could turn minor complications into very serious ones.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Warning signs are all over your chart, telling you that going to the wrong adviser could cause complications that would turn into impediments.

♓ Pisces Feb. **20-March 20.** Subdue any kind of inclinations that invite distraction. Chances are they would cause you to waver in your pursuit of an objective, when you should be giving your full attention.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** By pretending you know a lot about something when in reality you know little, you could get yourself in an embarrassing position when asked to explain it to others.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** If a friend of yours attempts to pry some confidential information out of you, hold firm in keeping mum. If this particular info morsel were to be circulated, you'd be blamed.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** All being difficult will get you is a loss of support from your friends. Don't be your own worst enemy; build bridges, don't burn them.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Take it slow when engaged in something important that could produce many future rewards, and make sure you do everything right. Patience will get you where you want to go much quicker than haste.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** When caught up in something that is not directly under your control, it behooves you to be on guard. You could easily be blamed for another's mistake.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Don't get caught up in airing a disagreement with your spouse in front of others. Having an audience would only make matters worse as each of you tries to look like the blameless party.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Conditions are such where a gadget, tool, material or a method could easily cause you to run amok if you're not totally familiar with its intricacies. Get quality instructions first.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Impulsiveness on your part could cause you to purchase an expensive piece of merchandise for which you currently have little use but hope one day to have. Wait to buy it until you actually need it. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

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28 "Rag Mop" brothers
29 Root vegetable
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32 Old PC acronym
33 Draft horse
37 NASA destination
38 Same old routine
39 El Dorado loot
40 Before marriage
41 Coffee substitute
43 Grads-to-be
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52 Rapiers
53 Minor mishap (2 wds.)
56 Chapeau's place
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58 Beethoven's Third
62 Holiday times
63 Say more
64 Casement
65 Treetop refuge
66 Susan of "L.A. Law"
67 Bagel choice

Down
1 Academic stat
2 Give assistance to
3 Sleep phase, briefly
4 Large families
5 Faux pas
6 Oboe feature
7 Kidnapper's demand
8 Revises
9 Gray wolf
10 Work to be done
11 Take advantage of
12 Lena or Marilyn
13 Pitfalls
21 On the rise
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29 Not theirs
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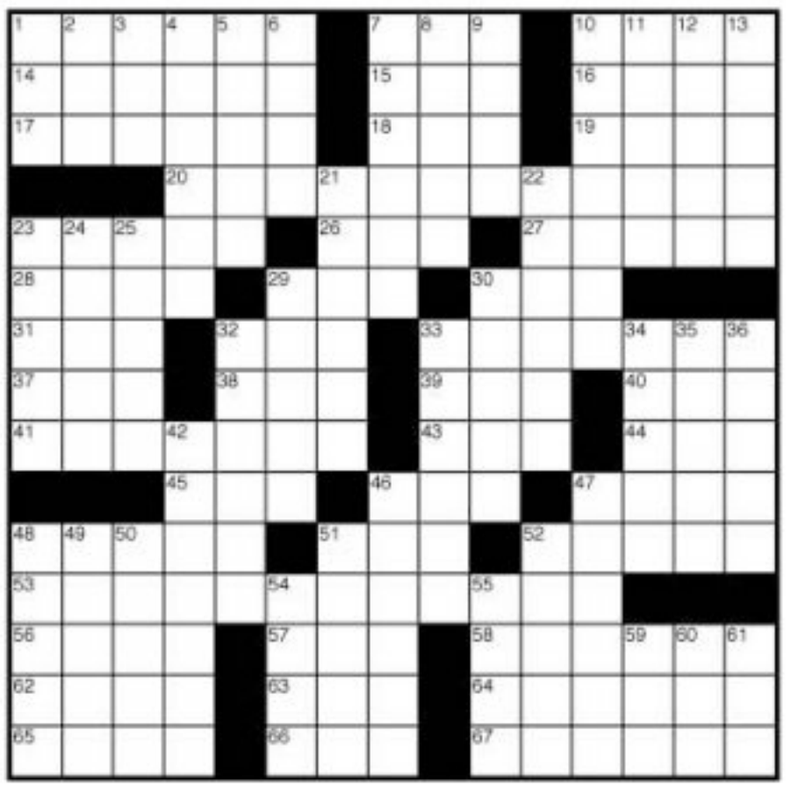

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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1			8			4		6
	5		6	1			8	
	6						2	
	1			7	3		4	
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		5		6				
	3				1		5	8

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to Thursday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS: **WWW.METRO.US/PUZZLES**

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Expect Pats to run up score

Big spreads in the NFL are rare. A monster line in a game between the Colts and Patriots is even more unique.

In the last 10 meetings between these two rivals, the spread has not been greater than 6½ points either way. On Sunday, it's 20½. That's the biggest line in the NFL this year and will likely be the biggest one we'll see all season. That's what happens when you replace Peyton Manning with people like Curtis Painter and Dan Orlovsky.

Considering the history between these two teams, we can safely expect Bill Belichick to run up the score. He didn't do it on the Eagles last week because he's friends with Andy Reid. Belichick certainly has no sympathy for the Colts. Look for Tom Brady and the starters to play the entire game. ADAM LEVITAN

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PICKS, TRICKS AND MORE

Giants ready for undefeated Pack

Big Blue a big underdog on paper ◗ Can the Giants repeat history, upset undefeated team again? ◗ Coughlin, Manning talking confidently

The Giants are on the wrong end of a mismatch on paper, but judging by the mounting injuries and greatness of the Packers, it might be even worse once they take the field.

New York (6-5) is on a three-game losing streak, have lost grip on first place in the NFC East and now have the unbeaten Packers (11-0) coming to town Sunday. The Packers are on such a high right now that they're openly discussing — and relishing — the possibility of an undefeated season.

There are so many obstacles in the Giants' way, it's a wonder how the players remain optimistic.

"Our confidence is always fine. As athletes and players, you always feel like you can go out there and play at a high level," said quarterback Eli Manning. "We feel like we can make a few plays and score, but we have to put it all together. We know we are capable of doing that."

Head coach Tom Coughlin said he will not show or even bring up the last time his Giants faced an unbeaten team this late in the season. That game, of course, was Super Bowl XLII when the Patriots had to settle for 18 wins and one giant loss.

"Only the fact that it is an undefeated team," Coughlin said when asked if this game is reminiscent of the Super Bowl. "It is a different circumstance when we played, but it is the challenge of playing a team that is obviously a very good football team. That part is consistent."

Packers head coach Mike McCarthy said while his team openly discusses going unbeaten they still keep the mantra of one game at a time.

"The most important mind-set that we have as a football team is staying in touch with reality, and the reality is we have to go to New York and beat the Giants. That's a challenge."

TONY WILLIAMS
sports@metro.us

JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

▶ While the Giants have struggled, Victor Cruz has three touchdowns in the last two games.

On the air Sunday
Packers at Giants, 4:15 p.m. (FOX)

The cold, hard football facts

A look at this weekend's NFL action through the eyes of the football stat experts at Coldhardfootballfacts.com.

Tim Tebow rocks real QB rating

Tim Tebow haters think he's a statistical circus freak who is winning in spite of himself. But his success is easy to explain if you understand the Coldhardfootballfacts.com Real Quarterback Rating, which measures all aspect of a QB's performance passing and running. Other QB stats measure only passing. The Broncos are 5-0 when Tebow outperforms the other team's quarterback in Real QB Rating.

- **Week 7: DEN 18, MIA 15**
  Matt Moore 69.6 Real QBR; Tebow 80.5 Real QBR
- **Week 8: DET 45, DEN 10**
  Matt Stafford-Shaun Hill 118.2 Real QBR; Tebow 48.2 Real QBR
- **Week 9: DEN 38, OAK 24**
  Carson Palmer 69.4 Real QBR; Tebow 108.2 Real QBR
- **Week 10: DEN 17, KC 10**
  Matt Cassel-Tyler Palko 67.9 Real QBR; Tebow 122.7 Real QBR
- **Week 11: DEN 17, NYJ 13**
  Mark Sanchez 62.2 Real QBR; Tebow 87.1 Real QBR
- **Week 12: DEN 16, SD 13**
  Philip Rivers 68.8 Real QBR; Tebow 94.4 Real QBR

FFchamps.com's 'Start and Sit'

- **Start him**
  NYG WR Victor Cruz
  He's been among the most consistent receivers this season and is especially hot right now. He has 285 total yards and three touchdowns the last two weeks.
- **Sit him**
  BAL WR Anquan Boldin
  Boldin averaged a measly 40 receiving yards over his last three battles. Cleveland's No. 1-ranked pass defense is formidable.

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3

In the AFC

STANDINGS

EAST	
PATRIOTS	8-3
JETS	6-5
BILLS	5-6
DOLPHINS	3-8
NORTH	
RAVENS	8-3
STEELERS	8-3
BENGALS	7-4
BROWNS	4-7
SOUTH	
TEXANS	8-3
TITANS	6-5
JAGUARS	3-8
COLTS	0-11
WEST	
RAIDERS	7-4
BRONCOS	6-5
CHIEFS	4-7
CHARGERS	4-7

In the NFC

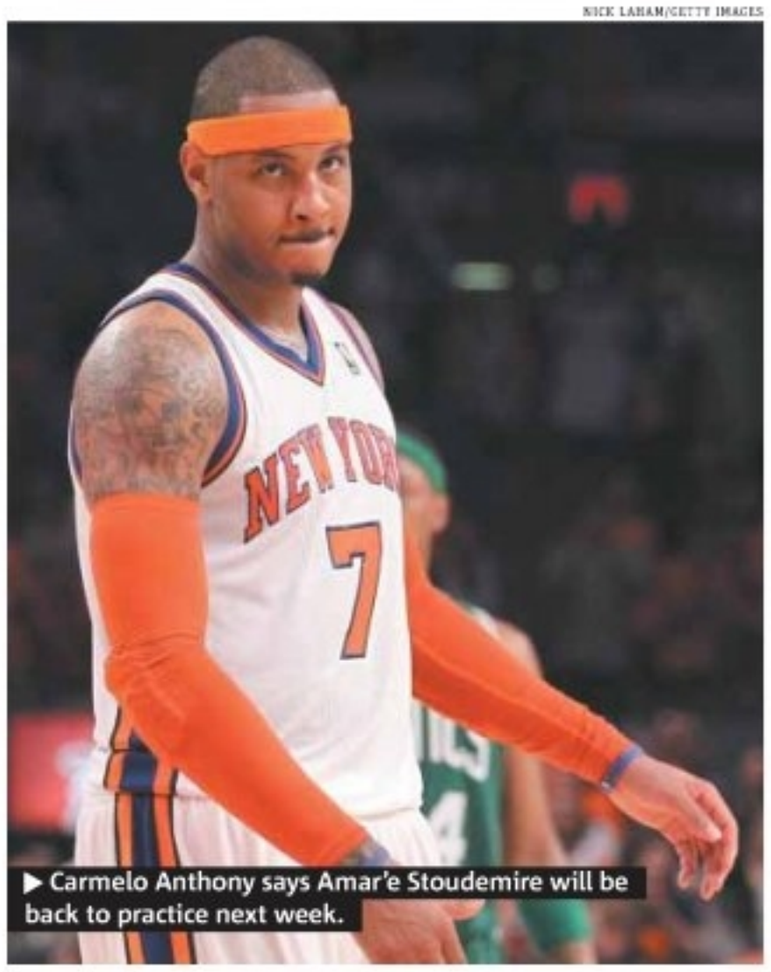
STANDINGS

EAST	
COWBOYS	7-4
GIANTS	6-5
REDSKINS	4-7
EAGLES	4-7*
NORTH	
PACKERS	11-0
BEARS	7-4
LIONS	7-4
VIKINGS	2-9
SOUTH	
SAINTS	8-3
FALCONS	7-4
BUCCANEERS	4-7
PANTHERS	3-8
WEST	
49ERS	9-2
SEAHAWKS	4-7*
CARDINALS	4-7
RAMS	2-9

*DOESN'T INCLUDE THURSDAY'S GAME

'Melo back in the building

NICK LAHAM/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Carmelo Anthony says Amar'e Stoudemire will be back to practice next week.

◗ Anthony first player back to practice as facilities open ◗ Says he is feeling healthier than ever ◗ Trying to steer clear of Paul trade rumors

The league has yet to officially ratify the new collective bargaining agreement, but they've officially allowed teams to open facilities to the players.

It should be a good sign for Knicks fans that among the 10 guys currently under contract it was Carmelo Anthony that was one of just two players who decided to work out Thursday. Toney Douglas was the other Knick to workout.

Anthony, who has been criticized in the past for appearing to not have the manic workout regiment of teammate Amar'e Stoudemire, came to the team's facilities in tremendous shape and, as he put it, 100 percent healthy for the first time in six years.

And CP makes 3?

Yahoo! Sports reported yesterday that Chris Paul was requesting a trade to the Knicks, but Anthony reserved comment.

"As far as recruiting **Chris Paul**, no. We are very close friends. I saw him out here in New York a lot, due to the [CBA] meetings, but we never had any conversations about him coming to New York. That's something I'll leave up to him."

"I'm good, I'm healthy [and] I'm focused. As soon as they opened the doors today I was the first person in here. My health is good; I'm in shape and ready to train.

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MORE ON CHRIS PAUL FROM CARMELO ANTHONY

By far I feel better this season than I've felt in a long time — and that's even after my surgery," Anthony said of offseason work on his elbow. "Nobody knows this, but I've been struggling with my elbow for the past six years. I could never hold my follow-through up. It felt weird shooting, but now that I got the surgery I could extend my elbow now. There's no pain at all."

The Knicks' biggest pain last year was how awkward the offense looked as the team struggled to find a way to balance between Anthony and Stoudemire. They rarely seemed to mesh, as if the two had to alternate when to take over the game. Anthony guaranteed that will sort itself out by the time the season begins.

"Amar'e is good. He'll be back next week. We talked the whole summer and the last couple of days," Anthony said. "We know what we have to do. Nothing major that we have to change. It's just a matter of learning to play with each other. I don't understand where that came from, that we can't play with each other."

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sports@metro.us

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▶ Plaxico Burress and the Jets face the 4-7 Redskins this Sunday at 1 p.m. on CBS.

Jets work on consistency

- Team has habit of playing down to their opponents
- Season dwindles, running out of time for corrections

Despite their overwhelming talent, the Jets consistently play down to the level of their opponents every week.

It's the same old story for the Jets, perhaps the streakiest team in the NFL the past three seasons. This year alone has been a mood swing for a team currently at 6-5. The Jets have endured losing streaks of three games and two games stacked neatly against winning runs of two games to start the year and a three-game winning streak that started in Week 6 and ended in Week 10.

"I don't think we've played our best yet. I think our best is yet to come. Obviously we're running out of weeks; we have to get it done now," head coach Rex Ryan said. "We recognize that. We're not ducking from that at all. We've done a lot of positive things; it's just that we lack consistency."

Kerley, LT coming back

It looks as if the Jets will be lifted by the return to health of two offensive weapons as LaDainian Tomlinson and Jeremy Kerley are both progressing from knee injuries.

"It felt good running around and cutting. I really pushed myself to see where I really was, and I was happy with the way it responded," Tomlinson said.

"It's been a lot of rehab. That's all I've been doing," Kerley said. "But I'm feeling better." METRO/KD

Last season, the team lacked consistency as well, but when the offense and quarterback Mark Sanchez were down, the rest of the team picked things up.

"I think it's just more of a time thing, but unfortunately it's taken us longer than we'd hope for it to come together. Even at this point, we're not as consistent as we'd want to be. It'll take time; we need to improve, but obviously we need to play at a really high level right now with the number of games we have left," tight end Dustin Keller told Metro.

"You won't find any team that's flawless, you won't, but I think we can improve. As an offense, we're meeting more with Sanchez to get better on point."

But given their inconsistencies, there is very little room for error for this team. Currently, the Jets are the eighth seed in the race to finish in the top six for a berth into the playoffs.

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Posada agent denies Mets talk

It didn't take long for someone to have Jorge Posada's back after reports came out the catcher shopped himself to the Mets — and was rejected.

Posada's agent, Seth Levinson, said the former Yankees catcher had done nothing of the sort.

"It's just not right. It's not fair. He deserves better from the New York media," Levinson said. "He deserves better from the media. I don't understand where this comes from."

Posada said earlier this offseason he wouldn't be returning to the Yankees next season, but was undecided about whether he would retire.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Posada

Mets general manager Sandy Alderson also corroborated Levinson's comments.

The Mets are looking for a catcher, but Posada is likely just a DH. METRO

JON P. KOPALOFF/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jon Jones (14-1) will face Lyoto Machida next Sunday.

Cocky Jones to headline at UFC 140

The question posed to Jon Jones was big picture in a sport that specializes in the details.

He answered in the moment, but offered a glimpse into the massive amount of self-confidence the 24-year-old possesses.

"I don't think I'm losing," Jones said of his light-heavyweight title fight against Lyoto Machida in a conference call Thursday afternoon to promote UFC 140 in Toronto's Air Canada Center next Saturday night.

The main event of UFC 140 is Jones defending his light heavyweight title against Machida, while Frank Mir vs. Antonio Rodrigo Nogueira and Tito Ortiz vs. Antonio Rogerio Nogueira are the semi-main events.

On TV next week

Jones vs. Machida
Dec. 10, 9 p.m., PPV

Jones, one of the sport's rising stars, has been criticized for being cocky by opponents and critics. Jones credits his camp for his success. He trains at the renowned Jackson-Winklejohn camp in New Mexico.

"I don't need to bring anyone into [my training camp]," Jones said. "I'm surrounded by awesome fighters." DENIS GORMAN

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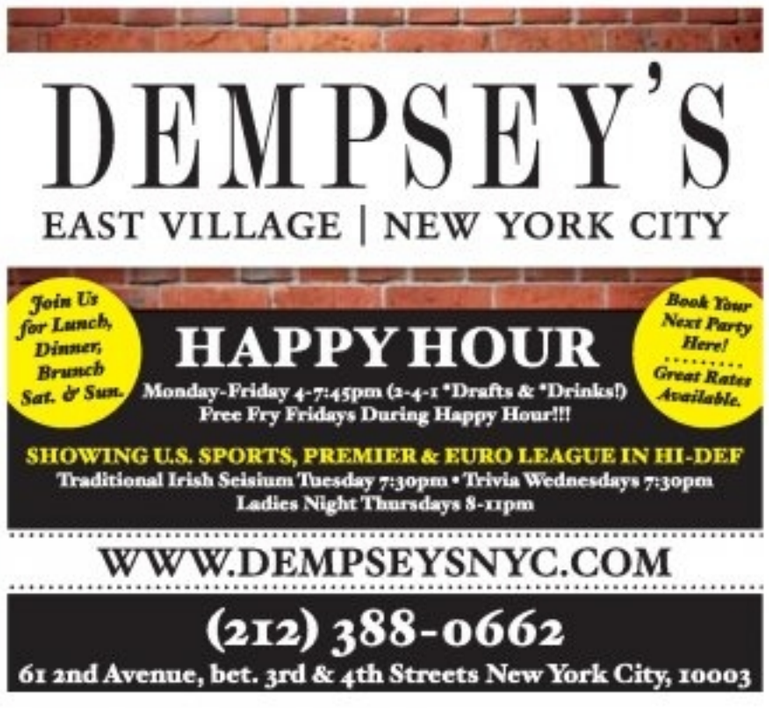
Kansas City at Chicago 1 p.m.	Chicago	Chicago	Chicago
Denver at Minnesota 1 p.m.	Minnesota	Denver	Denver
N.Y Jets at Washington 1 p.m.	Jets	Jets	Jets
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh 1 p.m.	Pittsburgh	Cincinnati	Pittsburgh
Atlanta at Houston 1 p.m.	Houston	Atlanta	Atlanta
Carolina at Tampa Bay 1 p.m.	Carolina	Carolina	Carolina
Indianapolis at New England 1 p.m.	New England	New England	New England
Baltimore at Cleveland 4:05 p.m.	Baltimore	Cleveland	Baltimore
Dallas at Arizona 4:15 p.m.	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas
Green Bay at N.Y. Giants 4:15 p.m.	Giants	Giants	Green Bay
Seattle at San Francisco 4:15 p.m.	San Francisco	San Francisco	San Francisco
Detroit at New Orleans 8:20 p.m.	New Orleans	Detroit	New Orleans
MONDAY, DEC. 5			
San Diego at Jacksonville 8:30 p.m.	Jacksonville	San Diego	San Diego



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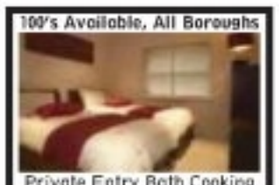

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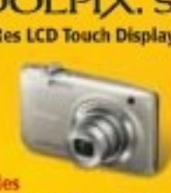

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